

Prabhakaran pays tribute to 'Black Tigers'

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By Ananth Palakidnar

THE LIBERATION Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran has paid tributes to the Tiger suicide squad, 'the Black Tigers', saying that they had made great sacrifices in eliminating the enemies of the Tamil struggle. "The 'Black Tigers' are the ultimate weapons of the LTTE", Prabhakaran said.

Prabhakaran appeared before his elite suicide squad members, popularly known as 'Black Tigers' to commemorate the 'Black Tigers day' last Monday. It had been held in a secret

location in the peninsula where Prabhakaran appeared with his own body guards.

The LTTE supremo, addressing the commemorative function, said that the sacrifices made by the 'Black Tigers' showed the strength of the LTTE. "The enemy forces have been shaken by the 'Black Tiger' actions" he said.

Elaborate arrangements were made throughout the peninsula to mark the 'Black Tiger day'. A school has been named after Miller, the first Black Tiger member to be in-

involved in a suicidal mission during the Vadamarachchi operations in 1987. According to reports, Miller drove a vehicle loaded with explosives and knocked an army post, and killed himself instantly.

LTTE theoretician Anton Balasingham and LTTE politbureau member Yogaratnam Yogi had also attended several commemorative meetings.

Meanwhile top LTTE leaders from the East are currently in Jaffna. The Batticaloa leader Karikalan and the Ampara

leader Aruna have escaped into Jaffna soon after the military operations were intensified in the East several weeks ago. The LTTE has lost several villages which were under their control to the security forces during the recent operations.